

## Message Text

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P 050144Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7186

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0013

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, US, NR

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON JAMES W HARGROVE

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AUSTRALIAN  
JAN. 5, 1976:

2. QTE FORD IS WAITING FOR NAURU TO APPROVE HIS CANBERRA  
ENVOY

FROM PETER MICHELMORE: NEW YORK SUNDAY

THE FINAL APPROVAL OF JAMES HARGROVE AS U.S. AMBASSADOR  
TO AUSTRALIA HINGES ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE TINY PHOS-  
PHATE ISLAND OF NAURU.

3. QTE. MR. HARGROVE HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO  
BOTH COUNTRIES. AND ALTHOUGH CANBERRA HAS GIVEN ITS  
APPROVAL TO HIS PROPOSED APPOINTMENT, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS  
HEARD NOTHING FROM PRESIDENT HAMMER DEROBURT OF NAURU.

4. QTE. PRESIDENT FORD WILL NOT OFFICIALLY NAME MR. HAR-  
GROVE UNTIL HE RECEIVES PRESIDENT DEROBURT S LETTER OF  
APPROVAL. SO IN THE MEANTIME THE WHITE HOUSE INSISTS THAT  
NO ONE HAS YET BEEN PROPOSED AS THE NEW ENVOY TO CANBERRA.

4. EVEN IN THE FACE OF CANBERRA REPORTS THAT MR. HAR-  
GROVE IS THE NEW AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE, AND THE FRIENDLY  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE MAN HIMSELF THAT HE WAS APPROACHED  
ABOUT THE JOB AS LONG AGO AS OCTOBER, THE WHITE HOUSE  
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IN UNYIELDING.

5. QTE INNER QTE SURELY YOU DON T SUGGEST MR. HARGROVE IS AND IMPOSTOR? END INNER QUE A REPORTER ASKED A SPOKESMAN FOR PRESIDENT FORD S PRESS SECRETARY, MR. RON NESSEN. INNER QTE WELL, END INNER QTE SAID THE SPOKESMAN THOUGHTFULLY, INNER QTE WE SURE DO GET A LOT OF THEM. END INNER QTE

6. QTE THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMED TO RESENT MENTION OF THE SUBJECT. INNER QTE NOBODY HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, END INNER QTE SAID ONE OFFICIAL WITH AN AIR OF FINALITY.

7. QTE MEANWHILE, BACK IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, MR. HARGROVE REMAINED AS UNFAILINGLY COURTEOUS AND PATIENT AS HE HAS BEEN ALL ALONG IN THIS RIDICULOUS DIPLOMATIC MESS.

8. QTE. INNER QTE. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT WORK WILL COME THROUGH BY JANUARY 19, WHEN CONGRESS RESUMES. END INNER QTE HE SAID. INNER QTE WITH THE SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS AND ALL, IT WILL BE FEBRUARY BEFORE I CAN HOPE TO LEAVE FOR AUSTRALIA. END INNER QTE

9. QTE HE AND HIS WIFE, MARION, ARE KEENLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR POSTING, AND HIS IS BENDING OVER ACKWARDS TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME OBSERVING PROTOCOL.

11. QTE. BUT UNTIL WASHINGTON RECEIVES PRESIDENT DEROBURT S REPLY, MR. HARGROVE MUST WAIT IN THE WINGS.

12. QTE. NOT A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAURU GOVERNMENT CAN BE FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT WON T COMMENT ON DEROBURT S SILENCE.

13. HOW LONG EVERYBODY MUST WAIT ON THE NAURUAN S PLEASURE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT THAT IS THE REASON AUSTRALIA IS STILL LACKING A U.S. AMBASSADOR AND JAMES HARGROVE DOESN T HEAR FROM PRESIDENT FORD  
END QTE  
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